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Commencement Address entitled: “Challenges to the New Physician”

Louisiana State University Medical School

Shreveport, Louisiana

May 29, 1982

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This was only the second commencement address that I delivered after becoming Surgeon General. It was longer than many subsequent commencement addresses but the impressive thing about this speech is that it could be given tomorrow at any medical school and it would still be apropos. All that would have to change are the numbers at the end of the speech; but the trends are the same.

This address probably contains more of what graduating medical students should hear than the material presented in subsequent commencement addresses where the constraints of time and program limited presentations.

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Aging

Baby Boomers

Chronic Illness

Disabled population

Ethical responsibility

Koop's five principles

Patient as a Trinity

Personal responsibility

Professional responsibility

Quality of care

Science & Art of medicine